

**AFRICA RISING DEDZA**

**DISTRICT INNOVATION PLATFORM RE- LAUNCH MEETING HELD ON 15/05/2015 AT MAPIRI LODGE.**

**Participants**

OWEN J.S KUMWENDA

GRACE WAN

MEMORY KHWIYA

CHRISTINE MADINGA

BESSIE NDOVI

GEORGE R. BANDA

ARNOLD M. NTHALA

REGIS CHIKOWO

OZIOUS NKHUZENJE

FRANKLIN GOMANI

MICHAEL CHEYO

MCBYTH DZUUNDE

FRANCIS H.KASANGU

SEKANI KATETA

THOKOZANI MVULA

**Welcome remarks**: The DADO for Dedza Mr Owen Kumwenda welcomed the participants and asked them to be free in their deliberations and contributions. New participants were urged to listen carefully so that they could catch up with the old members.

The key objectives of the workshop were:

1. To create awareness about the concept of research for development (R4D) platforms in the context of Africa RISING and how Innovation platforms (IP) can facilitate accelerated learning and technology delivery to farmers.
2. To open dialogue among diverse stakeholders for addressing critical issues constraining smallholder farming in Malawi.
3. To map out strategies and avenues for enhancing the participation of key economic prayers in agricultural innovation platforms, to promote food security and livelihoods of smallholder communities

**What is Africa RISING**

Regis Chikowo gave the house an introduction of Africa Research (Research In Sustainable Intensification for the Next Generation (Africa RISING) whereby he said it comprises of three projects in three regions:

1. East and Southern (IITA)
2. West( IITA)
3. Ethiopia (ILR)

The philosophy is to create opportunities for smallholder farm households to move out of hunger and poverty through sustainably intensified.

* Improve food security
* Nutrition security and
* Income security.

Research out put

1. Situation analysis and program – wide synthesis.
2. Intergrated system improvement
3. Scaling and Delivery
4. Monitoring and Evaluation.

Closing yield gaps requires knowledge assimilation by farmers through simple pathways e.g learning by doing. Farmers empowered through own experimentation and training on different aspects such as improved nutrition through utilization of the grain legumes they grow .

Farmers can increase land productivity when the land is too constrained by intercropping two legumes. NGOs and Extension workers can facilitate this to improve crop production.

Both farmers and different stakeholders must go an extra mile with their innovations to move beyond picking the ‘the low hanging fruit’.

**Group work and activity plans**

Participants worked in two groups and came up with two topical issues

1. **NUTRITION**

* Nutrition classes- capacity building

- Processing and Utilization

* Cooking demonstrations – legumes (soya beans, groundnuts, pigeon peas and cow peas.
* Nutrition open days in which stakeholders participate at the EPA level, rather than only at the district
* Africa RISING to finance some of this work through the Africa RISING R4D platform budget
* Partners to provide transport to venues/EPAs

1. **AFLATOXIN**

Management of crop harvest from harvesting to utilization- capacity building.

* Proper harvesting.
* Proper drying.
* Proper storage.
  + Link with INVC program that is also ltraining farmers on this
  + Other NGOs

1. **Innovation Platform meetings**

* These were to be held three times per year
* To include field trips to the EPAs to see activities on the ground

**ACTION PLAN**

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| **ID** | **ACTIVITY** | **TIME FRAME** | **TARGET** |
| 1 | Conduct training on post harvest handling and management of legumes | June, 2015 | 2 EPA |
| 2 | Support area stake holder panel to conduct interface meeting. | June, 2015. | 2 EPA |
| 3 | Conduct training in food processing and utilization. | July-August, 2015. | 2 EPA |
| 4 | Backstop nutritional lead farmer and farmers group activities at EPA level | On going | 2 EPA |
| 5 | Conduct nutritional open day at district level | September | 2 |
| 6 | Conduct tours to successful farmers. | August, 2015 | 1 |
| 7 | Conduct Innovation Platforms meeting | September, 2015, January 2016, May 2016 | 2 |
| 8 | Monitoring and evaluation of activities | Whenever there are actvities | 4 |